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The Decorator and Furnisher Supplement,

DEVOTED TO THE

Upholstery, Carpet, Furniture and House Furnishing Trades.

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No. 5.

AMONG THE TRADES.

It seems to be conceded in those circles where we have a right to expect the most reliable judgment and the most correct predictions as to the immediate future of the general business that the wide spread depression has nearly run its course, and that we may confidently look for "better times." Especially does this appear to be the case in the various lines of middle class goods and those that are fairly above the average. There have been such enormous stocks of excellent goods thrown upon the market during the past few seasons that the public taste has been somewhat educated, and these persons who have habitually bought the very lowest grades of goods are learning that a little better article is altogether more economical and profitable. And so it is that good reliable goods of all sorts are fast gaining a foothold even among the poorer classes in competition with those where extreme cheapness is the only merit.

Mid-summer dullness is favorable to the inquisitive visitor and the "household interest," as customers are few and the heads of the various establishments have leisure to be communicative.

EXCELLENT quality and fine finish are among the prominent characteristics of the furniture in the establishment of Messrs. DE GRAFF & TAYLOR. This house makes a specialty of artistic furniture, with a very high grade of finish. Some of the samples of ebony, mahogany, rosewood and oak, plainly finished and with carved ornamentations of various sorts, are especially attractive. There is a decided demand for heavy oak furniture and some of the carving done in this wood is truly artistic. A massive hall stand of old oak shows some very choice carving. It is in the Colonial style and has the color and finish of age. The high cost dining-room sets in oak, with elaborately carved finish, are very elegant and substantial. The popular dining table at present has corners slightly rounded and a very heavy single standard. In some cases there is a middle section to the standard that supports the table after the leaves are drawn out. This is plainer than the principal standard, and when the table is closed it is nearly or quite concealed. Dining-room chairs have arms or half arms, according to taste, and are usually finished in leather.

Some exceedingly elegant library furniture is shown. The tables are longer and rather severe in their plainness about the top, but the base is heavily carved and the standards rest upon square supports, that give space for small drawers, that fit into the carved pattern so perfectly as almost entirely to conceal their outlines. The variety in the frames of chairs is almost endless and the diversity of style in material and finish is equally so. A favorite style is that with solid wood seats and long slender spindle backs. It is very quaint and "old time" looking. There are chairs finished in mahogany, cherry, ebony and various other styles, also a very pretty white finish, that seems to have met with decided favor. A little gold is seen on white and ebony furniture, especially in small pieces. Of chamber suits and upholstered goods it is only necessary to say that in these lines the house is maintaining its well known high standard as to quality of material, finish and style.

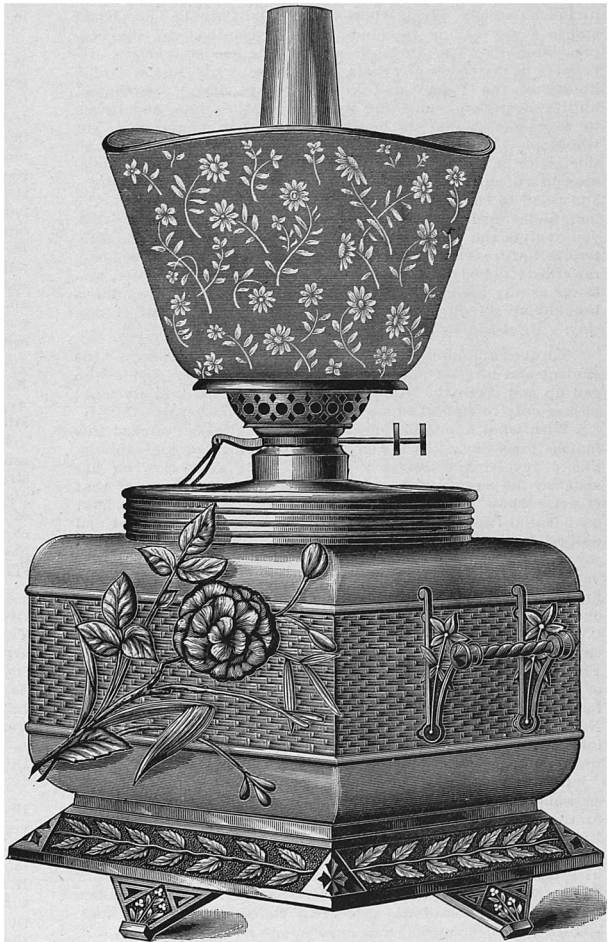
A NOVELTY in interior decoration is seen in the show rooms of the J. M. WADE MOSAIC-GLASS DECORATIVE COMPANY, where the most exquisite effects are produced in color on a wood surface. The body material is a three-ply wood, each sheet being about the thickness of ordinary veneer, or possibly somewhat thicker for certain kinds of work. These sheets are firmly cemented together, and so as to insure against the wood cracking they are united with the grain crossed either at right angles or diagonally, as may suit the taste of the manufacturer or the purpose for which they are intended. Thus prepared they are subjected to the coloring process, in the course of which, without regard to all past precedents or knowledge, forms are developed upon the surface in such perfect imitation of the various woods in their natural colors, that even experts are easily deceived, imagining the pattern to be actual inlay instead of being merely the effect of applied color. Thus on a cherry surface are mosaic patterns that are the exact reproductions of walnut, ash, mahogany, cedar, pine and other woods. A remarkable example is a dado of irregular shaped block work in dark colored woods. There are various grains, knots and angular effects, apparently wrought out of hard wood pieces, no two of which are the same size or shape. The surface is highly polished and the observer's first wonder is how any one could have the skill or patience to put such jagged and irregular bits of wood together. The entire effect is produced by the use of the inlay colors on three-ply ash. Fine inlay wood has always been among the choicest of decorative materials, but has always been subject to the objections of high cost and lack of durability, as a little water spilled upon any portion of the wood is likely to start the glue or cement with which it is attached, and thus spoil the choicest designs. In the Mosaic-Inlay, however, both objections disappear. There is no veneer to be affected by water, unless there is a very long continued soaking process, as the work is much more durable than the ordinary veneer on furniture. The cost is really a minor item as compared with that of regular wood inlay. The colors are permanent and are a fac simile of the natural wood, and as they penetrate well into the grain the surface may be cleaned and re-polished without danger of affecting them. In the company's rooms were some finished articles ready for delivery. There was a very elegant sewing machine case, several panels for doors, a screen panel, and some side-mantel fittings, all of the most perfect style and finish. The use of wood inlay need no longer be restricted to the wealthy, as unless one enjoys a work for the sake of the amount of labor expended on it, they may have equally fine effects, with durability added, for a tithe of the cost of the wood prepared under the old processes.

ANOTHER new departure is shown by the work of the BELCHER MOSAIC GLASS COMPANY. Instead of the massive solidity of design and

pattern of the old time stained glass decorations, the new process uses the smallest particles of glass, thereby producing the most delicate effects and the finest shadings. The new method consists in tracing out a pattern by laying in proper portions small pieces of glass of the color necessary to produce the desired effect. These glass fragments are then locked in place and liquid metal is forced into the spaces between the glass and around them in such a manner as to hold them firmly in a sort of metallic frame work. A wider margin or edge is left, surrounding the entire design, which may be made up of particles so small that the gradations of color are scarcely perceptible, the whole presenting a most exquisite appearance. In cost the new process is infinitely less than what is ordinarily known as stained glass, and the Company give the assurance of the durability of their work being all that could be desired. Its lasting qualities cannot be questioned except as far as withstanding any heavy pressure, such as might be brought to bear upon a large window in a violent storm. Still there is no reason why with proper management this work may not be as exceptionally durable as it is beautiful and effective. The patterns and colored designs shown at the Company's office are among the most artistic we have ever examined, and their catalogue, which is in process of preparation, will be replete with artistic ideas and suggestive designs. The special advantage of this work is that it permits the

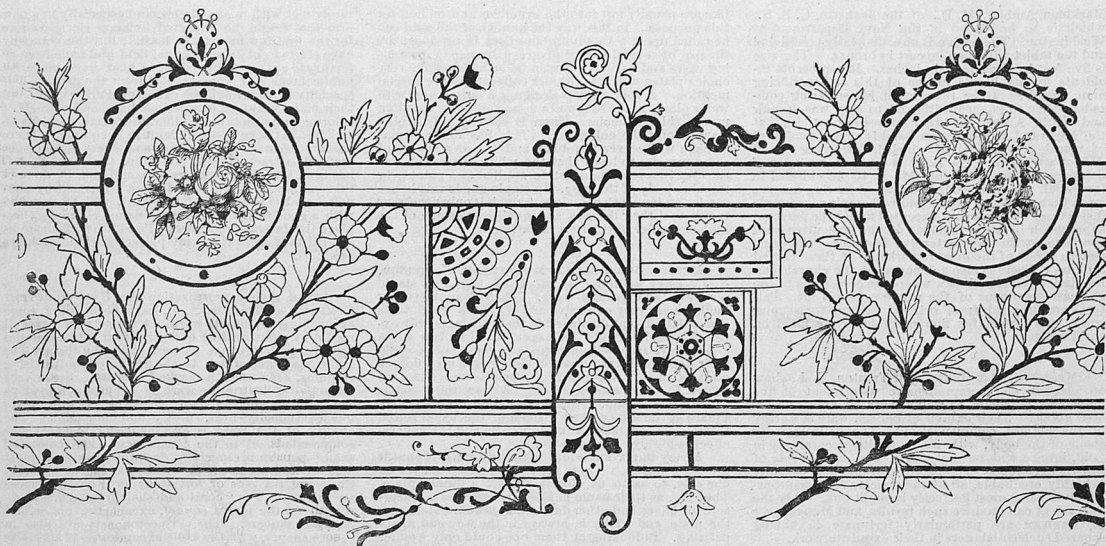
use of very small particles of glass, such as could not be employed where the pattern is regularly leaded, as in the old way.

WROUGHT METAL is always interesting, and brass being just now ultra fashionable, is especially so. An hour in the showrooms of Messrs. W. T. MESSEREAU & Co. is productive of some very valuable hints for future use and much practical information. A most elegant assortment of seasonable goods is shown and there are promises of high class novelties, which we shall take pleasure in illustrating later in the season. Brass bedsteads are in high favor for elegant summer homes, as well as for use in town houses. They are of course somewhat expensive, but have such excellent wearing qualities that the cost is money well invested. They are shown in plain styles and with canopy frames, also with fancy panels and in plain substantial styles. Brass tables are among the pretty and artistic productions of this house. They have either brass or wood tops, the latter being of highly polished mahogany or rosewood, the former of finely wrought brass, with a plaque or tile set in the top. Some small tables have chains and drops attached to the corners. Some small tables with tops of onyx are especially elegant, the translucent veinings and delicate colors contrasting admirably with the high polish of the metal.



Lamp, manufactured by The Charles Parker Company, Meriden, Conn. The lamp has a solid bronze base, bright gold bronze body, with oxidized, old silver, Japanese bronze or antique copper band, applied ornaments decorated in natural colors. Large size detachable oil fount, duplex burner and extinguisher.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.



NEW DESIGN FOR DECORATED WINDOW SHADE, MANUFACTURED BY F. J. KLOES & CO., NEW YORK.

There are easels of round or square brass tubing that are light and graceful looking and have cross pieces of finely wrought metal, and in some styles choice plaques set in heavy wrought frames, with light lattice work at the outer edges. There are also some attractive screens and screen frames of brass, with mahogany panels. Among the gems of the entire stock were cabinets of brass and mahogany. One style especially admired has several shelves and a gallery top. These cabinets were described at some length in *THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER* for July. In mirror frames, wall brackets, hanging racks, towel racks, hook brackets and similar items, there is every style that the most artistic taste can design. The department of fire sets, fenders and fire-place furnishings generally, is altogether complete and of a character to please the most fastidious taste. The popularity of brass in all of its uses is increased by the present finish, which is of such a nature that the brass does not tarnish, neither does it require to be cleaned. It is furnished in high polished antique, or of oxydized finish, according to the fancy of the customer.

THE evolution of the window shade, as set forth in the warerooms of Messrs. F. J. KLOES & Co. is especially interesting. The complicated processes through which the raw material must pass before a length of muslin becomes a finished window shade, are but little understood by the consumer or even by the trade that handles them. There are many grades of goods used for shade foundations, among the finest of which are Lonsdale cambric and a light weight nainsook, that is employed for transparent effects. Many plain shades of fine material are used, the only decoration being a netted lissen fringe of the same color as the curtain. This style is especially popular with a certain class of conservative people, who always study a quiet effect, not

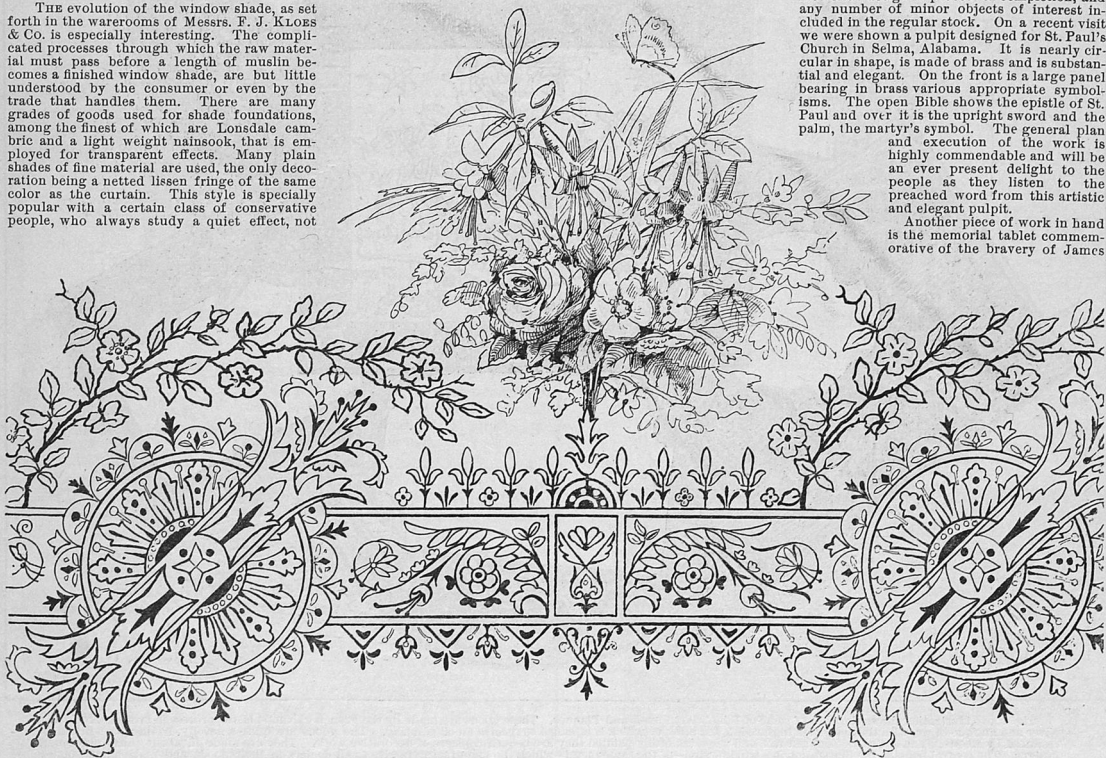
only in furnishings but every thing else about their belongings.

Messrs. KLOES & Co. are especially happy in the production of a class of goods that while they have a good deal of decoration and fine finish are not at all pronounced, the combinations of colors and the delicate blendings being most pleasing to an artistic sense. The patterns are well selected and the colors are lasting, which latter has not been a feature with the average Holland shade, the tints in them fading almost entirely out after a few weeks exposure to the sun. We illustrate a couple of the new designs. They are shown in various colors and combinations. Among those most desirable are medium tints in brown and wood colors, also various shades of olive, green and gray. Flock and tinsel are used to brighten certain patterns and as used in the samples shown us, produce very attractive effects. Some of the fine transparencies are exquisite, both in design and finish. They are inserted as a border or dado in opaque shades and may be used either with fringe or with a plain hem. There are various patterns in which hand painted flowers and other objects are introduced, and

the general effect is, in most cases, excellent. Store shades are a specialty of this house, and some of the odd designs and colors are worthy of more than a passing notice. The quality and finish of all grades of these goods is exceptionally good.

EVERYTHING pertaining to church furnishing is an object of interest to the observant individual, and all descriptions of such decorations are eagerly sought after, especially by the great masses of our people who regularly attend some stated place of worship. Nearly all ecclesiastical bodies have their preferred forms of ornamentation and their adopted or traditional furniture and accessories that set forth with appropriate dignity and grace "the amiability of the tabernacle." Among the establishments that confine their attention almost exclusively to church furnishing and decoration the firm of Messrs. J. & R. LAMB occupy a prominent position. A few hours spent in their warerooms are always productive of much entertainment and instruction. There is always some choice order just being finished or some memorial design in process of completion, and any number of minor objects of interest included in the regular stock. On a recent visit we were shown a pulpit designed for St. Paul's Church in Selma, Alabama. It is nearly circular in shape, is made of brass and is substantial and elegant. On the front is a large panel bearing in brass various appropriate symbolism. The open Bible shows the epistle of St. Paul and over it is the upright sword and the palm, the martyr's symbol. The general plan and execution of the work is highly commendable and will be an ever present delight to the people as they listen to the preached word from this artistic and elegant pulpit.

Another piece of work in hand is the memorial tablet commemorative of the bravery of James



NEW DESIGN FOR DECORATED WINDOW SHADE, MANUFACTURED BY F. J. KLOES & CO., NEW YORK.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

Markham Ambler, M. D., of the Jeanette, U. S. N., which is to be placed in the Navy Department at Washington. The design is already nearly completed and the tablet will soon be cast in bronze. The size is five feet by three feet six inches. It represents incidents in the heroic career of this self-sacrificing man, who died rather than leave his suffering comrades, when to go meant life and to stay was despair and death. Among the other interesting articles that the Messrs. LAMB have on hand is a baptismal font of marble, the model of which is attracting a good deal of attention. The bowl is set upon a cluster of columns and the entire outside is to be chiseled in low relief. Some specimens of wood carving deserve more than a passing notice and will amply repay close inspection. They are all executed under the personal supervision of some member of the executive staff connected with their extensive factories. An eagle lectern is one of the most remarkable of these carved articles. There is also a department for church embroideries and altar linen, where are seen some of the choicest specimens of the needlewoman's art. Patterns are supplied from original designs for secular work, and orders for fine embroidery are filled on short notice.

MESSRS. ORT & BREWER, of Trenton, N. J., show an elegant and comprehensive assortment of fine china and porcelain, as well as very high class decorated goods. Their exhibit of Belleek ware is worthy of the highest commendation. The delicate ivory shade of the body, with its exquisite decorations in gold, bronze and natural floral tints, are marvels of artistic excellence. The painting of orchids especially is highly creditable, all of the delicate semi-transparent tints being most perfectly brought out. Only the best talent can produce such results, and Messrs. ORT & BREWER are particularly fortunate in having secured such co-laborers in their exquisite work.

Among the attractions are porcelain jewel cases that look like finely carved ivory. They are entirely of open work and the bars that compose them are scarcely larger than a large sewing needle. The geometrical regularity of the work is almost marvelous as well as its delicacy, and is not at all fragile as it looks. The gold and platinum decorations are of the highest order, the latter especially having the most exquisite silvery effect. The gold used in this work is coin standard and gold pieces, sovereigns and the

like are usually put into the crucibles and melted for this purpose. In this way the quality of the gold can be relied upon. An admirable effect is produced by the use of several shades of green bronze in decorating vases and various ornamental articles. Some very choice plates and after dinner coffees deserve special mention. A very curious design is a large vase, with water plants at the base and a young alligator crawling up the side of the jar. There is some exquisite blue ware among the collection. This has delicate patterns in white over the blue and it was a matter of some surprise to learn that the white decoration was the clay in a semi-liquid state applied as a paint over the blue body of the vase. In staple goods this house carries an immense assortment and it is only necessary to say that their designs and qualities partake of the high character of their art department.

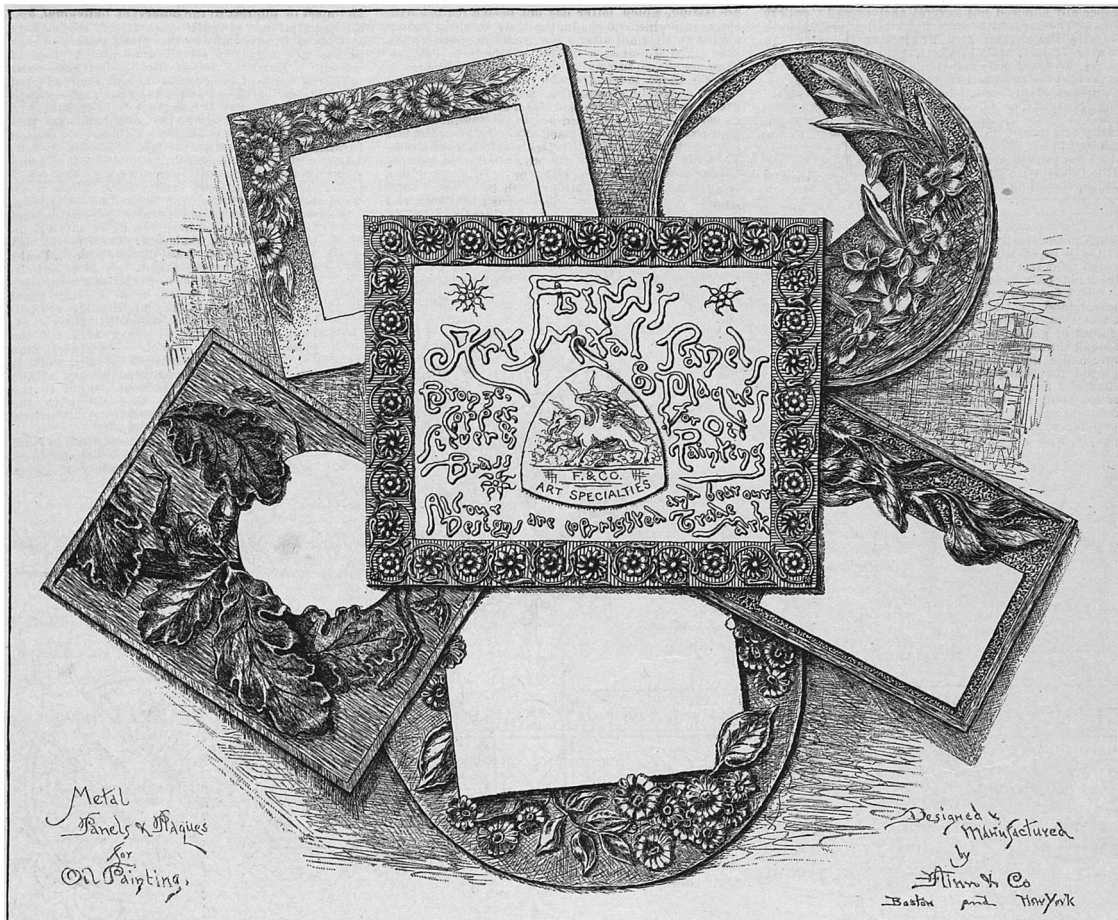
MESSRS. BURROUGHS & MOUNTFORD, of Trenton, N. J., carry an immense stock of fine and staple porcelain and granite ware. Their manufacturing facilities are very extensive and with the good taste and artistic talent displayed in their business only excellent results could be expected. In plain white goods there are choice designs and fine grades, while their decorated ware gives evidence of a high degree of excellence. A number of attractive novelties are shown in their sample room. A new toilet set is called the Portland. It is quite unique, being nearly square at the upper edges instead of the usual round form. The decoration is most artistic and the general effect is highly commendable.

A very important addition to the usual table outfit are bone dishes. These are small plates concave on one side, so as to fit closely against a dinner plate. They are, as their name implies, designed as a receptacle for bones and other debris that accumulates upon the plate, and which is always in the way and unappetizing. In looking at them one could only wonder why some one had never thought of that before. In the show rooms of this establishment are some very choice tile. The process of making them was witnessed and is the same as that described in the long article on china and porcelain on p. 186 this number.

THE PROVIDENTIAL TILE WORKS, of Trenton, N. J., are doing some most exquisite work. Their designs are characterized by a breadth and freedom

rarely met with in any circles, and especially in a new firm that might be expected to keep close to shore for the first few months at least. But this company have started out in an original field and have been so fortunate as to put out designs that have met with public favor and appreciation from the first. Their specialty is what might be called medallion work, and their claim is almost unequalled depth and richness of coloring and absolute freedom from craze, an obstacle which it has been most difficult to overcome. There are in process of preparation some very large pieces that will attract special attention, the more so as it has been said that such work could not be done in this country. In view of such a statement by connoisseurs the progress of the work will be watched with a good deal of interest. Some charming fireplace tile in sets are shown. Pond lilies, fleur de lis and cat tails, with the most perfect water effects, are produced.

SINCE their reorganization the UNION POTTERY COMPANY, of Trenton, N. J., have been doing some exceedingly creditable work. A recent visit was well repaid by an exhibit as extensive as it is tasteful and graceful in design. A pattern called by them "The Princeton," and which is shown in our advertising columns, has met with marked success. Some very attractive white granite ware in a pattern known as the "Columbia," is shown. This style is quite plain but exceedingly neat, pretty and practical. The quality of the ware is excellent and in every way commends itself to the consumer. The "coral and shell" pattern is especially desirable, having a most delicate and light effect without being at all frail. Charming tea sets of forty-four or fifty-six pieces are shown. The "coral and shell" pattern is made with all of the pieces square, except the plates and cups and saucers. The Princeton sets are also in square shapes, with the same exceptions. A specialty of this house is toilet ware and some unique and attractive styles are shown. The "Puritan" is plain and neat, with fluted top, that might have been suggested by the scalloped sun bonnet of some Puritan damsel of "ye olden tyme." The Newport style is also very desirable, having a fanciful battlement design at the upper edge and flat medallion sides, with shell-like decorations. Altogether the display of wares made by this company is in every way creditable and commend themselves to discriminating buyers.



The above illustration shows sketches of some of Flinn's Art Panels and Plaques. These goods are made by the French galvanoplastic process in bronze, oxidized silver and antique brass, with the designs in high relief, and a tablet which is intended to receive an oil painting. The goods are quite a novelty, having been first introduced by Messrs. Flinn & Co., Boston, last fall, and when tastefully painted they are beautiful pieces of decorative work. They are made in about thirty different designs. The central panel in the illustration is a window sign—of the same metal—which the manufacturers give to all dealers in their goods, and make a handsome addition to the window decoration.